

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 21, 2013*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, 3rd floor, Town Hall. Chairman Coburn called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Campbell, Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, David Margil, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed

Ms. Blanchard arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Others Present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	William Hurley	Director of Fiscal & Management Services
	Jim Araujo	Teacher Representative
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary

**Recognition of NHS Students receiving Massachusetts Association of School
Superintendents Academic Excellence Award**

Dr. Sanchioni discussed two awards he wished to present this evening. He stated that the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has designed an award for academic excellence to be presented by the Superintendent of Schools in each community within the Commonwealth. These awards are presented to students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers. Dr. Sanchioni announced that this years' recipients are Anna Meyer and Ryan Ward. Ms. Bertucci provided background information on the credentials of these students. Members of the Administration and School Committee congratulated these students on receiving this award.

Approval of request to Serve Alcoholic Beverages at Wall of Achievement Event

Chairman Coburn requested that the School Committee take action on a request made at the School Committee meeting of October 7, 2013 by Ms. Julie Moore who came before the School Committee to request that beer and wine be allowed to be served at the Wall of Achievement event being held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at Natick High School. A question was raised as to whether students would be out of the building while this event was taking place. Dr. Sanchioni indicated that no student events were scheduled in the building at this point in time except for basketball practice. Members of the School Committee spoke on their reasons to support or not support this request. Ms. Amy Steinmetz, parent and member of the community, came forward and stated her reasons why this request should not be approved. Ms. Blanchard moved to approve this request. Mr. Laurent seconded. More discussion took place on the need to update the policy on alcohol being served on school property. Chairman Coburn called for a vote: All in favor: Anne Blanchard, Tom Campbell, Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, Amy Mistrot. All opposed: David Margil, Firkins Reed. The motion carried.

Entry Plan - Anna Nolin, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Anna Nolin provided an overview of her entry plan as Assistant Superintendent. Copies of her detailed plan were provided to the School Committee. Ms. Nolin's report was a result of her findings to date from the past 90 days which provides a plan for mapping strategic initiatives, uncovering aims and promoting our schools vision for education. In the months to come, the plan will allow for stakeholders to communicate their hopes for this plan and their participation within the schools. Additional reports to the school committee will be made as plans are crafted and implemented. School Committee members expressed their enthusiasm with the plan and look forward to hearing future updates. A request was made to post this plan on the website.

Public Speak

Chairman Coburn asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. No one came forward.

Update on Middle School Building Committee Interviews

Chairman Coburn announced that the School Committee would not be conducting interviews with the Board of Selectmen this evening with the candidates for the Kennedy Middle School Building Committee. He offered a motion for the School Committee to consider as follows:

Motion: The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee amend their joint motion relative to a Kennedy School Building Committee ("the building committee") in the following respects:

- Interviewing of applicants for at-large members of the building committee will not take place on October 21.
- The rescheduling of those interviews and the scheduling of a vote to appoint the building committee is hereby delegated to the chairs of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee working collaboratively.
- The nomination of members of the building committee either by the Planning Board or by the Finance Committee may be based on any process that is normal and customary for that committee and its leadership, and is permitted by law.

Ms. Blanchard moved to approve the motion as outlined above. Ms. Mistrot seconded. It was unanimously approved.

2013 MCAS Report

Dr. Sanchioni and Ms. Nolin provided an overview of the 2013 MCAS results. Charts were presented showing students in the advanced/proficient categories vs. the state average, charts of ELA and Math scores compared with other comparable districts, charts of student progression in Math and ELA and outlined recommendations for improvement going forward. Dr. Sanchioni believes a lot of progress has been made and more and more students have reached the Advanced and Proficient categories. Natick's rankings according to schooldigger.com are as follows:

- District 38/319
- NHS 59/343 - Boston Magazine #54
- Kennedy 52/370
- Wilson 75/370
- Ben Hem 49/886
- Memorial 55/886

- Brown 65/886
- Lilja 76/886
- Johnson 111/886

Dr. Sanchioni provided a slide showing Ben-Hem's performance in Grade 3 & 4 Math and ELA over the past five years which has shown great improvement. Ms. Blanchard requested seeing similar charts for all the schools. Dr. Sanchioni stated that Ben-Hem was used because the principal has just reached his 5 year mark which he felt was a good gauge to look at performance trends.

Natick 360 Interboard Meeting & Goals

Chairman Coburn and Mr. Campbell encouraged members to attend the Natick 360 Interboard Meeting which is being held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 where Natick's 45+ boards and committees will have an opportunity to meet each other, share ideas and priorities and consider solutions to the challenges they face together. If anyone wishes to add to the goals that were distributed to the School Committee outlined in a memorandum from Tom Campbell, please contact Chairman Coburn. Mr. Campbell stated that this venue will be a good opportunity to discuss the rising enrollments in the schools with other town entities as well as other topics such as trails, transportation, environment, health & safety, etc. The conference will be held at Wilson Middle School beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of PreSchool and Elementary Schools Improvement Plans

Ms. Mistrot moved to approve the PreSchool and Elementary schools School Improvement Plans with gratitude to the principals and staff members as presented at the meeting of October 7, 2013. Ms. Reed seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes - September 23, 2013

Ms. Reed asked that wording be changed in the paragraph that reads:

Ms. Reed expressed a concern about schools closing on religious holidays, i.e., the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday . . .

to:

*Ms. Reed expressed a **desire to discuss** a concern about schools closing on religious holidays, e.g., the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday . . .*

Mr. Margil moved to approve the minutes with this change. Mr. Laurent seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes - September 23, 2013

Mr. Margil has questions regarding the Executive Session minutes of September 23, 2013. They will come back to the next meeting for approval.

Members Concerns

Chairman Coburn asked if the Committee would be open to starting the School Committee meeting on November 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. since an executive session is planned for that meeting. The consensus was yes, however, Ms. Blanchard indicated that she may not be able to make it at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mistrot discussed work she has done with the Chair and Superintendent for the past couple of meetings on the agenda planning and projecting out the length of the meeting based on what's on the agenda vs. two desires:

1. Respect our 10:00 semi-hard stop time of the meetings
2. Respecting the time of the presenters who come to spend the evening with us and try to limit the time they spend with us depending on when their item is on the agenda.

Ms. Blanchard asked if she meant assigning a time to each item. Ms. Mistrot responded that that was what she had in mind. Members expressed that it could be a good internal tool to gauge the timing of the meeting but wouldn't want to make it public as they may not be able to stay within the designated time slots based on discussion and questions. Mr. Margil thought it would be very helpful for people in the audience and at home if there was some type of display or flipchart that would indicate which items have been discussed and what was left to be discussed.

Mr. Campbell raised a concern in general on Executive Session minutes with respect to litigation matters - is it possible for those minutes to remain confidential until after the conclusion of the litigation? It was explained that even though the School Committee approves the minutes, they are kept confidential until they have been declassified as public documents by a review of the School Committee which happens yearly.

Ms. Blanchard requested that the Policy Subcommittee, when considering the policy pertaining to the serving of alcohol on school grounds, provide a few different options to present to the full School Committee given that there are many opinions/views on this matter. Chairman Coburn indicated the process/definition /charge for developing this policy will be on a future agenda, sometime in November.

At 10:00 p.m., Ms. Mistrot moved to adjourn. Mr. Campbell seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Attest: _____

Peter Sanchioni, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Secretary to the School Committee

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided (electronically via Novus Agenda):

School Committee Meeting Minutes - September 23, 2013

Executive Session Minutes - September 23, 2013

Request to Serve Alcoholic Beverages at Wall of Achievement Event

Natick 360 Interboard Meeting Info & Goals

Memorandum announcing NHS Students receiving Massachusetts Association of School
Superintendents Academic Excellence Award

2013 MCAS PowerPoint Presentation

Anna Nolin, Assistant Superintendent's Entry Plan

Handouts

Draft motion to postpone Middle School Building Committee Interviews